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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/663,354	09/15/2000	Atsushi Misawa	0879-0273P	1844

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

VU, NGOC YEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2612	5

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/663,354

Applicant(s)

Atsushi MISAWA

Examiner

Ngoc-Yen VU

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— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 15, 2000

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 6-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 6-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) Other: _____

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Important Notice

This Office Action is to replace to Office action which was mailed on 09/11/2001. A shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire three months from the mailing date of this communication.

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 08/916,173, filed on 08/21/1997.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement, filed 09/15/2000, has been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Response to Amendment

4. The preliminary amendments, filed on 09/15/2000, have been entered and made of record.

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Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 6, 7, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori (US #5,027,214) in view of Wakui (US #5,742,339).

Regarding claim 6, Fujimori '214 teaches a digital camera for capturing images, comprising:

a built-in memory (buffer 13) for storing image data representing captured images, said built-in memory being provided in a camera body (Fig. 1);
a detachable memory card (17) for storing image data (Fig. 1), said detachable memory card having a larger storage capacity than said built-in memory (col. 5 line 9 - col. 6 line 24);
an insertion slot (interface 16) for receiving said detachable memory card (Fig. 1); and
memory control means (Fig. 1, elements 2, 14 & 21-17) for transferring image data from said built-in memory to said detachable memory card upon detecting the mounting of the memory card (col. 6 line 25 - col. 9 line 66).

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Claim 6 differs from Fujimori in that the claim further requires detecting means for detecting insertion of said detachable external memory card into said insertion slot. The limitation is well known in the art as shown in Wakui. In the same field of endeavor, in figures 1A and 1B, Wakui '339 teaches a digital camera having a built-in memory (7,20) for storing image data, a detachable memory card (31) for storing image data, an insertion slot for receiving said detachable memory card, and detecting mean for detecting the insertion of said detachable memory card into said insertion slot (detecting circuit 16, col. 5 lines 11-23; col. 7 lines 58+). In light of the teaching from Wakui, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the digital camera taught in Fujimori by providing detecting means for detecting the insertion of a detachable memory card so as to greatly facilitate the operation of the camera by initiating an automatic transferring of image data stored in the built-in buffer memory (13) to the memory card.

As to claim 7, Fujimori teaches that the built-in memory is initialized to allow for new image capturing upon said memory control means automatically transferring said image data (col. 3 lines 1-37; col. 7 lines 5-51; col. 9 line 11 to col. 10 line 47).

As to claims 9 and 13, Fujimori teaches images captured by the camera are stored in the buffer memory (13) first regardless of whether the camera is being used or not being used.

7. Claims 8, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori and Wakui, as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Watanabe (US #4,887,161).

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As to claims 10, 11 and 12, the claims differ from Fujimori, as modified by Wakui, in that they require said detachable memory card is partially exposed so that a user can grasp the memory card by the exposed part to detach said memory card from said camera body, wherein when said detachable memory card is inserted into the insertion slot, more than 1/3 of said detachable memory card is exposed in an insertional direction of said detachable memory card.

In the same field of endeavor, Watanabe '161 teaches a digital camera (10) having a detachable memory card (20) wherein more than 1/3 of the memory card is exposed in an insertional direction of the memory card (Figs. 1-3), and the memory card is partially exposed so that a user can grasp the memory card by the exposed part with fingers to detach said memory card from said camera body (col. 3 lines 42+). In light of the teaching of Watanabe, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have the memory card shown in Fujimori and Wakui be partially exposed allowing the user to detach the memory card from the camera so as to eliminate the need to have a rejecting mechanism for the memory card, thus reducing the size and weight of the digital camera.

As to claim 8, the claim differs from Fujimori and Wakui in that the claim requires that the camera body in an insertional direction of said memory card is shorter than said memory card in the insertional direction of said memory card. Watanabe shows that the camera body in an insertional direction of said memory card is the same as said memory card in the insertional direction of said memory card. Since it is highly desirable for the memory card to be easily and

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readily removed from the camera body, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have the memory card shown in Fujimori, Wakui and Watanabe longer than the camera body.

Conclusion

8. **Any response to this office action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

(for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Ngoc-Yen Vu** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Wendy Garber**, can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

NYV
03/07/2002


Ngoc Yen Vu
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2612